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ABSTRACT

As a whole, Hispanics drop out of high school at higher rates and attain lower levels of education than non-Hispanics. The relative recency of migration among Hispanics may at least partially account for this trend. The status dropout rate for an age group (the percentage of that age group not enrolled in school and that has not completed high school) is one measure of dropping out. In 1997, a greater percentage of Hispanics than non-Hispanics aged 16 to 24 were born outside the United States. Among this group, the status dropout rate (39%) was higher than it was among first- and later-generation Hispanics (15 and 18%, respectively). First and later-generation Hispanics were two to three times more likely than their non-Hispanic peers to drop out. In 1997, the percentage of 25-to-34-year-olds who were dropouts was lower than it was in 1989 or 1979. Similar changes were occurring for all groups. The gaps in dropout rates between non-U.S.-born, first-generation, and later-generation Hispanics and comparable non-Hispanics were generally similar in 1979, 1989, and 1997. (SLD)

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NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS
INDICATOR OF THE MONTH

HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUTS, BY RACE-ETHNICITY AND RECENCY OF MIGRATION

June 2000

NCES 2000-009

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
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INDICATOR OF THE MONTH

NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS

High school dropouts, by race–ethnicity and recency of migration

June 2000

As a whole, Hispanics drop out of high school at higher rates and attain lower levels of education than non-Hispanics. The relative recency of migration among Hispanics may at least partially account for this trend. Evidence of the undereducation of Hispanics has implications for developing retention strategies as well as for assessing the educational and training needs of the population. The status dropout rate for an age group (the percentage of that age group that is not enrolled in school and has not completed high school) is one measure of dropping out.

- In 1997, a greater percentage of Hispanics than non-Hispanics ages 16–24 were born outside the United States. Among this group, the status dropout rate (39 percent) was higher than it was among first- and later-generation Hispanics (15 and 18 percent, respectively). First- and later-generation Hispanics were two to three times more likely than their non-Hispanic peers to drop out.
- In 1997, the percentage of 25- to 34-year-olds who were dropouts was lower than it was in 1989 or 1979. Similar changes are occurring for all groups. The gaps in dropout rates between non-U.S.-born, first-generation, and later-generation Hispanics and comparable non-Hispanics were generally similar in 1979, 1989, and 1997.

Percentage of 16- to 24-year-olds who were not enrolled in school and had not completed high school, by recency of migration and race–ethnicity: October 1997

		Hispanic			Non-Hispanic			
Recency of migration	Total	Total	Mexican	Other Hispanic	Total	White	Black	Asian/ Pacific Islander
Total	**11.0**	**25.3**	**27.5**	**21.3**	**8.6**	**7.6**	**13.4**	**6.9**
Born outside 50 states/D.C.	23.5	38.6	44.3	29.6	7.8	5.4	9.2	9.4
First generation	10.0	15.4	17.0	7.9	5.0	5.6	6.2	2.5
Later generation	9.3	17.7	18.3	14.2	9.0	7.8	14.1	5.3

Percentage of 25- to 34-year-olds who were not enrolled in school and had not completed high school, by year and recency of migration and race–ethnicity: November 1979 and 1989 and October 1997

		Hispanic			Non-Hispanic			
Year and recency of migration	Total	Total	Mexican	Other Hispanic	Total	White	Black	Asian/ Pacific Islander
1979 Total*	**14.9**	**45.4**	**51.2**	**24.6**	**13.0**	**11.5**	**24.1**	—
Born outside 50 states/D.C.	34.4	59.9	74.8	30.6	16.1	18.6	15.3	—
First generation	12.3	30.8	35.3	4.3	8.2	7.8	18.1	—
Later generation	13.5	29.9	32.8	18.3	13.1	11.5	24.4	—
1989 Total*	**13.1**	**39.1**	**45.9**	**27.6**	**10.5**	**9.1**	**18.9**	**10.5**
Born outside 50 states/D.C.	31.8	51.8	69.9	28.6	11.5	10.2	14.2	12.3
First generation	10.5	25.3	25.2	28.5	4.5	4.0	8.9	5.9
Later generation	11.2	23.0	23.7	19.7	10.8	9.4	19.3	3.9
1997 Total*	**11.9**	**38.5**	**46.2**	**27.8**	**7.7**	**6.6**	**12.2**	**9.3**
Born outside 50 states/D.C.	30.8	49.5	60.0	34.2	10.3	7.6	16.7	10.7
First generation	9.5	16.4	22.8	3.2	5.8	5.7	9.9	3.9
Later generation	8.1	24.0	26.8	12.5	7.5	6.6	11.9	3.2

— Not available.

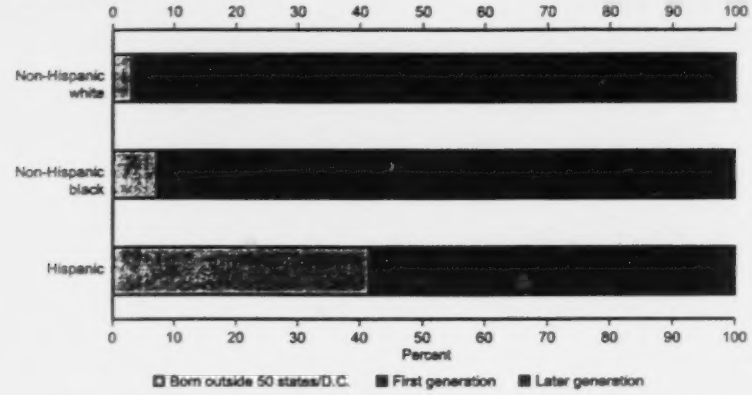
* Total includes a small proportion for whom recency of migration is unknown.

NOTE: People born in Puerto Rico and the U.S. territories are considered born in other countries. Individuals are classified as first generation if they were born in one of the 50 states or Washington, D.C., and at least one of their parents was not. Later generation includes those who were born in one of the 50 states or Washington, D.C., as were both of their parents.

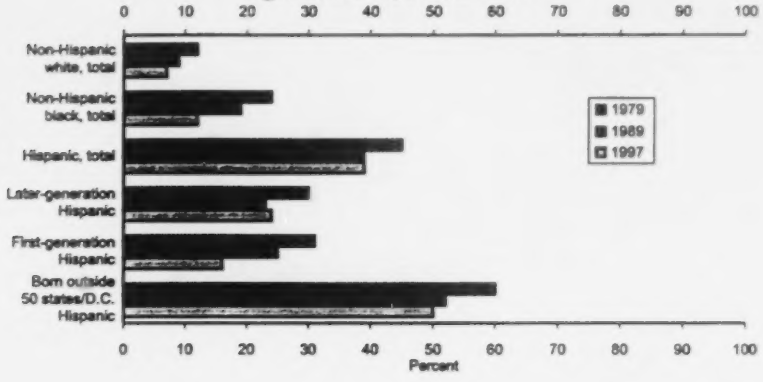
SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Current Population Survey, November 1979 and 1989, and October 1997.

High school dropouts, by race–ethnicity and recency of migration

Percentage distribution of 16- to 24-year-olds according to recency of migration: 1997


0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100
Non-Hispanic white
Non-Hispanic black
Hispanic
0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100
Percent
Born outside 50 states/D.C.
First generation
Later generation

Percentage of 25- to 34-year-olds who were not enrolled and had not completed high school: 1979, 1989, and 1997



NOTE: People born in Puerto Rico and the U.S. territories are considered born in other countries. Individuals are classified as first generation if they were born in one of the 50 states or Washington, D.C., and at least one of their parents was not. Later generation includes those who were born in one of the 50 states or Washington, D.C., as were both of their parents.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Current Population Survey, November 1979 and 1989, and October 1997.

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